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12 JUN 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RESEARCH)

SUBJECT : Basic Research Requirements

1. In the light of recent discussions on research activities undertaken by the DD/R, the CS are giving thought to providing the DD/R with a list of long-range basic research requirements designed to ultimately remove some of the very serious factors which currently limit clandestine operations. This paper deals with one of the most important of these requirements, namely that of completely new and innovative approaches to remote audio surveillance. Other requirements of this nature will be forthcoming soon.

2. The CS have a need for basic research that eventually could lead to innovative approaches and techniques in the audio surveillance field. The DD/P does not have available personnel or money to do such research in depth. It is, therefore, requested that the DD/R undertake this advanced research. The following is submitted for your guidance and information.

3. It is generally believed that eavesdropping on unwitting high-level targets is one of the more dependable sources of hard intelligence. Unfortunately, the best targets are behind the Curtain and not generally accessible by conventional means.

4. Ideally it would be desirable that new techniques be found that -

(a) would permit eavesdropping on targets behind the Curtain without any access to the target area;

(b) would permit the listening post to be a considerable distance from the target. As an ultimate goal a listening post in a friendly host country or in the United States should be developed which can pick up audio intelligence from denied areas. Increasing the range of our present techniques by a few hundred or few thousand feet would not significantly affect the problem in denied areas;

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(c) could not be detected by any of the known counter-measures techniques. The electromagnetic spectrum is so thoroughly monitored behind the Curtain that any radio transmission between the target and listening post would be detected in a very short time. Perhaps a new transmission medium, e.g., earth's gravitational or magnet field should be aggressively investigated for a solution to this problem;

(d) would not require skilled technicians to install equipment in the vicinity of the target area.

5. The current state of the audio surveillance art, as practiced by the CS, uses several techniques which permit the operators, given no access or limited access to the target, to listen to conversations from one hundred to one thousand feet away. Unfortunately, these techniques are useable only when a variety of conditions in the target are fortuitously exactly right for the operation.

6. The DD/R could provide a most significant contribution to intelligence operations by initiating long range programs which promise to make possible operational techniques for audio surveillance of targets at distances several orders of magnitude greater than our present capabilities.

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Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

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